Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5309
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO: INVITING SPAIN TO ALLIED MANEUVERS

REFS: (A) STATE 183838 (DTG 051123Z AUG 77), (B) USNATO 7485 (DTG 031732Z AUG 77)

1. OUR REVIEW OF FALL EXERCISE SCHEDULE INDICATES THAT THE ONLY MANEUVER INVOLVING REFORGER TROOPS IS "CARBON EDGE". HOWEVER, OBSERVERS FROM ALL CSCE COUNTRIES (INCLUDING SPAIN) ARE BEING INVITED TO THIS MANEUVER AS THEY ARE TO THE FRG'S "STANDHAFTE CHATTEN", WHICH OTHERWISE MIGHT ALSO BE AN APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE FOR A SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE SPANISH. WE ARE INCLINED TO RULE OUT ANY "NATO MANEUVERS" SUCH AS "COLD FIRE" AND "DISPLAY DETERMINATION" BECAUSE IN ADDITION TO OTHER FEATURES THAT WOULD MAKE THEM INAPPROPRIATE, AN INVITATION TO A SPANISH OBSERVER SHOULD PROBABLY BE CLEARED FORMALLY WITH NATO.

2. WE DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL FOR AN INVITATION TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SPANISH INFORMALLY WITH THE FRG POLAD (REF A) WHO AGREED THAT SUCH AN INVITATION FOR AN APPROPRIATE MANEUVER WOULD BE DESIRABLE. WE NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO OUR OWN REVIEW THE BELGIAN EXERCISE "BLUE FOX" MIGHT BE AN APPROPRIATE MANEUVER. ("BLUE FOX" WILL BE HELD IN GERMANY SEPT 12-23; ONLY BELGIAN, US AND FRG FORCES WILL PARTICIPATE; BELGIUM WILL NOTIFY CSCE COUNTRIES BUT WILL NOT INVITE CSCE

OBSERVERS).

3. FRG REP AGREED THAT "BLUE FOX" APPEARED TO BE THE BEST CANDIDATE AND SAID THAT IF BELGIUM DID DECIDE TO INVITE SPANISH OBSERVER, HE BELIEVED HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT BELGIUM IS LIKELY TO INVITE A LARGE NUMBER OF OBSERVERS FROM BELGIUM TO WATCH "BLUE FOX" AND HE ASSUMED A MILITARY ATTACHE FROM THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS COULD EASILY BE INCLUDED. FRG REP EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR NOT EXTENDING SUCH INVITATION TO SPANISH MILITARY ATTACHES IN BONN, SINCE THEY WILL LIKELY BE OBSERVING "CARBON EDGE" AND "STANDHAFTE CHATTEN" DURING SAME PERIOD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO SOUND OUT THE BELGIAN DELEGATION ON INVITATION OF SPANISH OBSERVER TO "BLUE FOX". GLITMAN

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